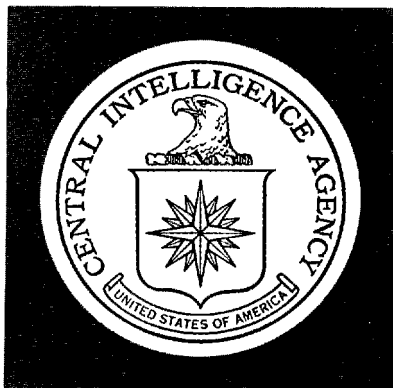


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Venezuela-Guyana: Venezuela is increasing its support to the Amerindian secessionist movement in Guyana.

Guyana rebel leaders who were involved in the abortive Rupununi insurrection early this month are meeting in Caracas with top Venezuelan officials to plan future moves.

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[redacted] fresh Venezuelan Government support has been promised and that plans are under way to recruit and train volunteers.

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The Venezuelans, meanwhile, are keeping up propaganda against the Guyanese Government with allegations of genocide and inhuman treatment of Guyana's Amerindian population. Venezuelan newsmen admitted to hitherto restricted border areas are reporting a buildup of Venezuelan forces there. Much of the reporting is exaggerated; it could be part of Caracas' psychological warfare campaign against the Guyana Government.

President-elect Caldera's silence on the border dispute may have sharpened fears by military and political groups in the lame-duck Leoni administration that Caldera will not press Venezuela's claim as vigorously as they have done. Recent moves by these groups may have been intended to tie Caldera's hands when he assumes the presidency in March.

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[redacted] (Map)

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